



Childcare Guidance for Phase 2
Reopening Strategy in Response to COVID-19
June 9, 2020 Updates

Montanans have succeeded in limiting the spread and impacts of COVID-19 by working together and following guidance that has been provided. This has presented an opportunity to move to Phase 2 of the Reopening the Big Sky strategy. A directive issued by the governor on May 19 specifically allows for expansion of operations at childcare facilities by removing the cap of 24 children. Please note childcare providers must comply with the **following requirements**, to the maximum extent possible for Phase Two **beginning Monday, June 1, 2020**:

Health Assessments:

1. Assess the health of all employees at the beginning of each shift. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must be sent home. Symptoms include cough, difficulty breathing, fever, repeated shaking with chills, chills, body aches, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.
2. As children enter the child care setting each day it is recommended that a staff person wearing gloves checks the temperature of each child and adult, and asks if the child or anyone in the home has had a fever, cough, shortness of breath, flu like symptoms or have been around anyone with COVID-19. If the family answers yes to any of these questions, it is recommended that they are required to leave the day care pending assessment by their medical provider and local public health officials.
3. Encourage and allow staff who are over the age of 65 or who have compromised immune systems to leave the workplace.

Support respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene for employees and children:

1. Strongly encourage or require all staff and children over the age of two to use cloth face masks.
 - a. A cloth face covering will help contain any respiratory droplets from the wearer and protect other people. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
 - b. Cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing and good personal hygiene.
 - a. You can make cloth face coverings at home or purchase them.
2. Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles throughout the facility.
3. Provide hand-washing facilities with soap and water and single-use towels. If soap and water are not readily available, provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

4. Wear gloves when changing diapers or wiping noses and ensure that gloves are changed after each individual use and wash hands before putting on the next pair of gloves.
5. Place hand sanitizers in several locations to encourage hand hygiene. Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol.

Social Distancing:

1. Adapt drop off and pick up processes (such as signing in and out) to support social distancing and decrease shared surface touches and the spread of infection.
2. Minimize crossover areas between groups and sanitize any shared surfaces.
3. Offer outdoor play in staggered shifts. If multiple groups are outside at the same time, they should have a minimum of six feet of open space between outdoor play areas or visit these areas in shifts so that they are not congregating. Avoid use of play structures. Always wash hands and any items used (i.e. balls) immediately after outdoor play time.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

1. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as toys, doorknobs, handrails, and light switches. Use the cleaning agents that you usually use in these areas, and follow the directions on the labels.
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3. A list of sanitizers effective for COVID-19 is located on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Be sure to strictly follow specified contact times and mix rates.

Lewis and Clark Public Health has the following **additional guidance** to help protect staff and children from disease.

1. **Develop a written plan** to manage Phase Two operations. Be sure to address any issues unique to your operations and location.
2. Communicate with families about ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the importance of doing so to all families and staff involved in the child care provision. Posters are available on the [CDC Website](#).

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please call Lewis and Clark Public Health at 457-8900. Thank you for protecting our community from COVID-19.

If you suspect Coronavirus, contact your medical provider.

For a link to this document and other local information: www.lccountymt.gov/covid-19